

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (previously presented): An earthquake prediction method comprising:  
observing magnetic field vectors of magnetic fields within an observation area;  
estimating telluric current induction field vectors and telluric currents based on vector differences between the observed magnetic field vectors and a geomagnetic vector;  
collating and comparing a change over time of the estimated telluric currents and a state of the estimated telluric currents within the observation area, with past patterns of change over time of telluric currents and a state of the telluric currents; and  
estimating a seismofocal zone, time of occurrence, and seismic intensity of a seismic event based on the comparison.

2. (previously presented): The earthquake prediction method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
eliminating a magnetic field noise component at observation points from observed magnetic fields;  
finding an amount of divergence between a direction of a magnetic fields from which said magnetic field noise component has been eliminated and a direction of true north; and

estimating said telluric current induction field vectors based on vector differences between observed magnetic field vectors from which said magnetic field noise component has been eliminated and a geomagnetic vector that has been corrected to true north.

3. (previously presented): The earthquake prediction method according to claim 2, wherein estimating telluric current induction field vectors and telluric currents comprises:  
plotting said estimated telluric current induction field vectors on a map; and  
estimating said telluric currents by joining points on the map at which geomagnetic abnormalities are recognized and applying Ampere's right-handed screw rule.

4. (previously presented): The earthquake prediction method according to claim 1, wherein estimating telluric current induction field vectors and telluric currents comprises:  
plotting said estimated telluric current induction fields on a map; and  
estimating a seismofocal zone at an area in which said estimated telluric currents are concentrated.

5. (previously presented): The earthquake prediction method according to claim 4, further comprising:  
gathering past data of telluric current induction field intensities of the estimated seismofocal zone;

generating a telluric current induction field intensity change pattern that indicates change over time;

collating and comparing the telluric current induction field density change pattern with past telluric current induction field intensity change patterns that have been stored; and  
estimating said time of occurrence and seismic intensity of a seismic event.

6. through 12. (cancelled).

13. (previously presented): An earthquake prediction method according to claim 2, wherein:

said magnetic field noise component is a change in magnetic field that is observed at fixed time intervals at a fixed observation point; and

eliminating said magnetic field noise component comprises analyzing characteristics of a pattern of the change in magnetic fields that is observed at fixed time intervals as a fixed observation point and extracting the magnetic field noise component from observed magnetic fields.

14. (previously presented): An earthquake prediction method according to claim 2, wherein estimating said telluric currents comprises using Ampere's right-handed screw rule based on said estimated telluric current induction field vectors of a plurality of points.

15. (previously presented): An earthquake prediction method according to claim 2, wherein estimating said telluric currents comprises using Ampere's right-handed screw rule based on said estimated telluric current induction field vectors of a plurality of points that form a loop.